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**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method in a data processing system for managing  
2 data in a network data processing system, the method  
3 comprising:  
4 receiving a packet containing data associated with  
5 content;  
6 determining whether the packet is enabled for  
7 content distribution by examining the data packet; and  
8 responsive to the packet being enabled for content  
9 distribution, distributing the content in response to a  
10 request for the content without requiring a validity  
11 check.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the content is a Web  
2 page.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 responsive to an absence of an enablement for  
3 content distribution, performing a validity check on the  
4 content in response to a request for the content.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the data processing  
2 system is one of a cache for Web content or a proxy  
3 server.

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1     5.     The method of claim 1, wherein an indicator in the  
2     packet is used for determining whether the content is  
3     enabled for content distribution.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the indicator is  
2 located in a header of the packet.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the packet is  
2 transmitted using a hypertext transfer protocol.

1     8.     A method in a data processing system for caching  
2     content, the method comprising:  
3         receiving a data packet containing content and  
4     control information;  
5         caching the content and control information;  
6         responsive to a request from a requestor for the  
7     content, determining whether a particular indicator is  
8     present; and  
9         responsive to a determination that the particular  
10    indicator is present, sending the content to the  
11    requestor without performing a validity check.

1     9.     The method of claim 8, wherein the indicator  
2     identifies the content as being content distribution  
3     capable.

1 10. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

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2 responsive to a determination that the particular  
3 indicator is absent, performing the validity check using  
4 the control information.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the content is one of  
2 a Web page, an audio file, a text file, a program, or a  
3 video file.

1 12. The method of claim 8, wherein the control  
2 information follows a hypertext transfer protocol.

1 13. A method in a data processing system for managing  
2 content, the method comprising:  
3 receiving a request for content from a node;  
4 adding an indicator and control information used to  
5 cache the content in a header of a data packet, wherein  
6 the indicator is used by an enabled node to distribute  
7 the content without performing a validity check on the  
8 content;  
9 placing the content into the data packet; and  
10 transmitting the data packet to the node.

1 14. A data processing system comprising:  
2 a bus system;  
3 a communications unit connected to the bus system;  
4 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the  
5 memory includes a set of instructions; and  
6 a processing unit connected to the bus system,

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7 wherein the processing unit executes the set of  
8 instructions to receive a packet containing data  
9 associated with content; determine whether the packet is  
10 enabled for content distribution by examining the data  
11 packet; and distribute the content in response to a  
12 request for the content without requiring a validity  
13 check in response to the packet being enabled for content  
14 distribution.

1 15. A data processing system comprising:  
2 a bus system;  
3 a communications unit connected to the bus system;  
4 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the  
5 memory includes a set of instructions; and  
6 a processing unit connected to the bus system,  
7 wherein the processing unit executes the set of  
8 instructions to receive a data packet containing content  
9 and control information; cache the content and control  
10 information; determine whether a particular indicator is  
11 present in response to a request from a requestor for the  
12 content; and send the content to the requestor without  
13 performing a validity check in response to a  
14 determination that the particular indicator is present.

1 16. A data processing system comprising:  
2 a bus system;  
3 a communications unit connected to the bus system;  
4 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the

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5 memory includes a set of instructions; and  
6 a processing unit connected to the bus system,  
7 wherein the processing unit executes the set of  
8 instructions to receive a request for content from a  
9 node; add an indicator and control information used to  
10 cache the content in a header of a data packet in which  
11 the indicator is used by an enabled node to distribute  
12 the content without performing a validity check on the  
13 content; place the content into the data packet; and  
14 transmit the data packet to the node.

1 17. A data processing system for managing data in a  
2 network data processing system, the data processing  
3 system comprising:  
4 receiving means for receiving a packet containing  
5 data associated with content;  
6 determining means for determining whether the packet  
7 is enabled for content distribution by examining the data  
8 packet; and  
9 distributing means, responsive to the packet being  
10 enabled for content distribution, for distributing the  
11 content in response to a request for the content without  
12 requiring a validity check.

1 18. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the  
2 content is a Web page.

1 19. The data processing system of claim 17 further

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2 comprising:

3 performing means, responsive to an absence of an  
4 enablement for content distribution, for performing a  
5 validity check on the content in response to a request  
6 for the content.

1 20. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the  
2 data processing system is one of a cache for Web content  
3 or a proxy server.

1 21. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein an  
2 indicator in the packet is used for determining whether  
3 the content is enabled for content distribution.

1 22. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the  
2 indicator is located in a header of the packet.

1 23. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the  
2 packet is transmitted using a hypertext transfer  
3 protocol.

1 24. A data processing system for caching content, the  
2 data processing system comprising:

3 receiving means for receiving a data packet  
4 containing content and control information;

5 caching means for caching the content and control  
6 information;

7 determining means, responsive to a request from a

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8 requestor for the content, for determining whether a  
9 particular indicator is present; and  
10 sending means, responsive to a determination that  
11 the particular indicator is present, for sending the  
12 content to the requestor without performing a validity  
13 check.

1 25. The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the  
2 indicator identifies the content as being content  
3 distribution capable.

1 26. The data processing system of claim 24 further  
2 comprising:  
3 performing means, responsive to a determination that  
4 the particular indicator is absent, for performing the  
5 validity check using the control information.

1 27. The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the  
2 content is one of a Web page, an audio file, a text file,  
3 a program, or a video file.

1 28. The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the  
2 control information follows a hypertext transfer  
3 protocol.

1 29. A data processing system for managing content, the  
2 data processing system comprising:

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3 receiving means for receiving a request for content  
4 from a node;  
5 adding means for adding an indicator and control  
6 information used to cache the content in a header of a  
7 data packet, wherein the indicator is used by an enabled  
8 node to distribute the content without performing a  
9 validity check on the content;  
10 placing means for placing the content into the data  
11 packet; and  
12 transmitting means for transmitting the data packet  
13 to the node.

1 30. A computer program product for managing data in a  
2 network data processing system, the computer program  
3 product comprising:  
4 first instructions for receiving a packet containing  
5 data associated with content;  
6 second instructions for determining whether the  
7 packet is enabled for content distribution by examining  
8 the data packet; and  
9 third instructions, responsive to the packet being  
10 enabled for content distribution, for distributing the  
11 content in response to a request for the content without  
12 requiring a validity check.

1 31. A computer program product in a data processing



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2 system for caching content, the computer program product  
3 comprising:

4 first instructions for receiving a data packet  
5 containing content and control information;

6 second instructions for caching the content and  
7 control information;

8 third instructions, responsive to a request from a  
9 requestor for the content, for determining whether a  
10 particular indicator is present; and

11 fourth instructions, responsive to a determination  
12 that the particular indicator is present, for sending the  
13 content to the requestor without performing a validity  
14 check.

1 32. A computer program product for managing content, the  
2 computer program product comprising:

3 first instructions for receiving a request for  
4 content from a node;

5 second instructions for adding an indicator and  
6 control information used to cache the content in a header  
7 of a data packet, wherein the indicator is used by an  
8 enabled node to distribute the content without performing  
9 a validity check on the content;

10 third instructions for placing the content into the  
11 data packet; and

12 fourth instructions for transmitting the data packet  
13 to the node.

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